
Journal of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

L.A.R.C.
P.O. Box 2571
Thunder Bay ON P7B 5G1

Hi-Q

October, 1992

Meetings: 7:30 P.M.
2nd Thursday each month
Room 210, McIntyre Building,
Confederation College.

SUPERIOR-BAIKAL CONNECT

....Bob Bishop VE3JAB

Linking the World's Greatest Lakes and Their People.

Two Lakehead Amateur Radio Club members provided the necessary radio communications to fill the gaps created when letters arrived often water soaked and unreadable.

In late November 1991, VE3JAB (Bob Bishop) heard first hand the experiences of Mike Jones when he presented his story about a group from Canada and United States that had recently returned from the USSR and Lake Baikal.

The story was about an international kayaking expedition on the worlds two largest freshwater lakes, to develop a network on and between them for future co-operative efforts, and to encourage educational exchanges between the people of the USA, Canada and Russia.

Lake Baikal, located in a remote region of southeastern Siberia in Russia, is the largest freshwater lake by volume in the world. Lake Superior is the greatest by surface area. Together, these two lakes contain more than 30 percent of all the fresh surface water on earth, giving them global importance.

Seventeen scientists, educators, businessmen and university students from Canada, USA and Russia have completed the expedition in two phases. Last summer Lake Baikal and Lake Superior this summer, circumnavigating each lake by kayak and making presentations around each lake about the environments and their people.

With the break-up of the USSR at the completion of the first phase, many new problems began to interfere with the plans for the summer of 1992. The team members located in Irkutsk were desperate for funding the air travel and equipment needed to make the journey to North America. Their letters were full of despair and yet hope. Many letters arrived after months of delay, and of these letters, few were readable due to water soaking.

VE3JAB offered to attempt amateur radio contact. Mike Jones then set to work sending back a letter a week for four weeks to each of the Russian team requesting them to secure a Russian Amateur in Irkutsk to call VE3JAB on 14.140 MHz. at 0300 Z any Saturday until contact was made.

Five weeks after the second group of letters had been mailed there was still no contact. At 11:30 pm EST, on Sunday, I was surprised by the phone ringing---this is Harry

VE3BPU in Forrest, how come you don't answer that Russian who has been calling you for the last half hour----

Well, thanks to Harry and his long distance phone call, I made the first contact with UA0SR Serge, in Irkutsk. Mike had left me a list of things to sort out if I made contact.

My Russian and his English could cope with call signs, RST, QTH, name and all the formal usual QSI. contacts. So an ongoing schedule was established. We found an interpreter which was very helpful — and information began to pass back and forth. Well, almost back and forth. Conditions were anything but helpful, and over the next few months like April to June there were enough contacts to ensure the event was still on.

I was scheduled to leave Thunder Bay June 15th for two months — there was need for another operator. So Pat Doherty, VE3HFS came on board with his 20 metre mono-bander at 100 feet and a full coasting kilowatt.

VE3HFS continues to carry the full load of the contacts. There are many things to clean up the tail end of an old project but — and here is the big news — there is local political interest in establishing a "Twinning" of Irkutsk and Thunder Bay. We have the same economic interests, we have the same environmental interests and we both live at the edge of the largest freshwater lakes in the world.

Amateur radio has played an important part in the final success of this international adventure. Amateur radio can and will play an important role in bringing other countries and their peoples in touch with each other. There is a continuing need for better understanding and communication between the people of North America, Europe, Asia, South America, the Far East, you name it — we can talk to them via the medium of Amateur Radio.

Do it today and enjoy the results tomorrow.

In his capacity as CARF Ontario Region Director, Bob prepared this article for The Canadian Amateur, Canada's Amateur Radio Magazine; however when asked, he graciously consented to our using it here. Our thanks to Bob for permission to publish this well written article of local interest. — Ed.

Heart of Thunder Bay Race

Thank you, to the communicators, for standing around in the wind and providing check point reports. Working the race were: Skip VE3BBS, Bob VE3RVA, Terry VE3TKA, Jim VE3UA; and, Norm VE3XRC.

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Minutes of a meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club held at the 55+ Centre 10 September, 1992 at 7:30 P.M.

Present: Mark Vukovich VE3VUK President
Steve Robb VE3KRH Vice-President
Ryan Jensen VE3TEI Secretary
Skip Wright VE3BBS Treasurer
Len Catillo VE3ILV Director
Glen Anderson VE3JAU Past President

with 31 other members and 2 guests.

1. To-nights' meeting was held at the 55+ Center at the invitation of VE3SAO. The President asked Bob Bishop VE3JAB President of the Northwestern Ontario Senior Citizens Amateur Radio Club to introduce the members to the centre. Bob described the short history of the centre, provided some interesting handouts and invited all present to tour the facilities during the break.

2. The president called the meeting to order. He offered congratulations to the following LARC members on their achievements during the last Winter Canada Day Contest sponsored by CARF.

Bob Bishop	VE3JAB
Skip Wright	VE3RCN
Norm Bell	VE3XRC
Pat Pugh	VE3PHU

3. Treasurers Report

Skip apologized, stating a full report was not available but indicated that even before membership renewals started coming in the club was in a very good financial position.

4. New business

A. Annual EMO Test

The President reminded the members of the EMO exercise scheduled for Monday, 14 September, 1992. It will involve emergency groups from both the United States and Canada. There will also be a requirement for communications by HF as well as VHF. HF frequencies will be 7,290.0 kHz and 3,926.0 kHz. On VHF VE3YQT on 147.06- MHz and the Grand Marais repeater on 147.360+ will be used. If possible and or if necessary the Copper Harbour repeater on 147.315 may be used as well. Two operators will be required at EMO Headquarters and one each at the Keefer Terminal and the three hospitals.

B. VE3YQT Repairs

Skip opened discussion on damaged heliax at VE3YQT. In the end we learned that the condition of the heliax, following site renovations and an ice storm, does not meet the requirements of the tower owner. Skip stated improvements were needed in order to keep the owner happy.

Skip moved that a sum of money, not to exceed \$1,000.00, be authorized to effect sufficient repairs to the heliax to meet the tower owners requirements.

Glen, VE3JAU, seconded the motion.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding responsibility for the damage caused by contractors, and no decision was made.

C. Palomar Repeaters

Nestor, VE3NPS, gave a very interesting description of an American repeater system which covers areas of California and Texas. The full duplex system incorporates Palomar Telecom Inc. controllers (similar to the system now linking Sioux Narrows, Kenora and Falcon Lake) boasts excellent audio quality.

The meeting broke off for twenty minutes to stretch and tour the impressive facilities of the 55+ Centre.

5. Elections

The president called upon Nestor, Chairman of the Nominating Committee to preside over the annual elections.

Nestor stated that of the incumbents only the President, Mark and the Secretary Ryan declined to let there names stand for re-election.

Skip nominated Terry, VE3TKA for President Seconded by Steve, VE3KRH.

There being no other nominations Terry was declared President by acclamation.

Nestor nominated Eric, VE3XET, for Secretary . . . Seconded by Skip, VE3BBS.

There being no other nominations Eric was declared Secretary by acclamation.

Since there were no more nominations for any other positions the remaining incumbents were declared re-elected by acclamation.

The 1992/1993 LARC Officers list is as follows:

President	Terry Stewardson	VE3TKA
Vice-President	Steve Robb	VE3KRH
Secretary	Eric Todd	VE3XET
Treasurer	Skip Wright	VE3BBS
Directors	Norm Bell	VE3XRC
	Len Catillo	VE3ILV
	Dave McClenaghan	VE3DOM
	Glen Wallace	VE3ICY

Nestor offered congratulations to all.

6. Classes

Ed, VE3SNW announced that the fall classes would commence with a free introductory evening at 7:00 P.M. 22nd October, 1992. He requested that all present encourage their interested friends and family attend.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

The next meeting will be at 7:30 P.M. in room 210, McIntyre Building, Confederation College.

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Hamfest at Roseau Minnesota

....Robert VE3RVA

The 6th annual Hamfest was held in the Roseau High School auditorium on August 29, 1992 at Roseau, Minnesota; thirty miles south of the Manitoba border and twenty miles west of Warroad Minnesota.

This event was sponsored by the Lake of the Woods Repeater Association, comprised of hams in Roseau and Lake of the Woods Counties.

It was the first time that I attended this type of event. Doors opened at 10:00 A.M. for registration. There were dealer displays and a flea market. Amateur TV and packet demonstrations ran continuously throughout the day and there were hourly draws for door prizes.

My attention was diverted from all the shiny and not so shiny toys when I met Barry, VE3BGA from Thunder Bay. Between the two of us, we must have broken the bank. Barry got a deal on two new radios, an HF and a mobile; while I picked up a dual band mobile.

At 3:00 P.M. the famous entertainer, Woody Linton, VE3JJA took charge as auctioneer. Then at 4:00 we moved into the cafeteria for a buffet of fried chicken with all the trimmings.

After dinner there was a sing-a-long and more door prizes. The Sheriff of Roseau County thanked the Amateurs for their storm weather patrols. The grand door prize was a hand held radio.

By the end of the day, I had made many new ham friends from Northern Minnesota, Northwestern Ontario and Manitoba. I want to thank Dave, KB0HAP and Bill Landy, W0DCM, and The Lake of the Woods Repeater Association for an excellent Hamfest; I will be looking forward to returning next year.

2M — Brockway Mountain to VE3YQT

....Robert, VE3RVA

A long distance QSO proved to be an interesting event. On August 19, 1992 my wife, daughter and I were making a circle tour of Lake Superior. Our overnight stop was in the heart of the Keweenaw Peninsula, in the Hancock and Houghton area of upper Michigan State.

At 6:00 P.M. we decided to drive to the northern tip of the peninsula, to Copper Harbour. The distance was only 37 miles but the woodlands were beautiful. We were told of scenic overlook with a commanding view of Lake Superior. The climb was four road miles and 733 feet above the lake. The view was certainly worth the trip. From this vantage point I decided to try contact through 'YQT.

Using a Realistic HTX-202 hand held connected to a through-the-glass Larson 2M/70cm antenna, I called Skip, VE3BBS. He reported excellent reception, so good in fact, that he thought I was in Thunder Bay.

As this was going on we witnessed one of the most beautiful sunsets over Lake Superior. The drive back to Houghton was in complete darkness, but we have decided to someday return to this area to take in more of the excellent sights and events the area has to offer.

*** For Sale: ***

- ① Kenwood TR-9000: 2-Metre all mode transceiver with DTMF/FM/CW. \$300.00.
 - ② Pye 2 Metre, Remote controllable, Base Stations, AC supplies built-in, single channel. Desk or rack, can be used as repeaters. \$75.00.
 - ③ Standard 12 Channel, Crystal controlled Mobile, 30 Watts, loaded. With DTMF Handset. ... \$100.00.
- ☎ Contact — Bill, VE3AJ ☎ ... 344-1866.

New Classroom for Meetings and Ham Classes

We could not book room 245 at Confederation College this year. This season, the meetings and classes will be held in room 210, McIntyre Building, Confederation College.


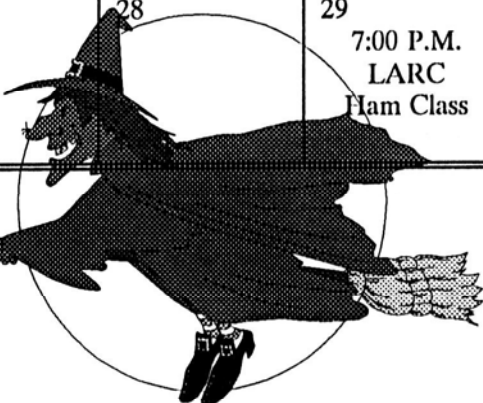

Repeaters — Update

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| VE3TBR | Lindo, VE3NHX is building an IBM controller and working on new radios. Letter requesting new software has been sent to the author of a 73 magazine article. |
| VE3TBT | Worked well for Heart of Thunder Bay Race. 147.39+. Try it, you'll like it! Let us know how it works. Future not yet determined. |
| VE3YQT | Pre-amp installed Saturday, 26 September. Slow but steady progress is being made on the link. There are a few wrinkles to iron out. |

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1992

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Thursdays the 8 th , 22 nd , and 29 th : Meeting and classes will be in Room 210, McIntyre Building, Confederation College.				1	2	3 10:00 Breakfast at Blue Parrot
4	5	6	7	8 7:30 P.M. LARC Meeting	9	10 10:00 Breakfast at Blue Parrot
11	12  Thanksgiving	13	14	15	16	17 10:00 Breakfast at Blue Parrot
18	19	20	21	22 7:00 P.M. Introduction to Ham Radio	23	24 10:00 Breakfast at Blue Parrot
25	26	27	28 	29 7:00 P.M. LARC Ham Class	30 Depart for Hamfest in Minneapolis	31  Hamfest